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B. Recent Developments

501 The Nationalist Government moved a great many government-owned ships from the China Mainland to Taiwan in 1949. It was estimated that less than 20 per cent of the shipping tonnage of the government-owned China Merchant Steamship Company was left to the Communists.[63] But due to the Communists' vigorous efforts in ship-building and ship-repairing, the number of ships available increased substantially in the period 1951-55. The People's Refloating Company has salvaged over 100 steamers of different sizes(totaling over 100,000 gross tons.)[64] adn of these salvaged vessels, the largest is the steamship Chiang-hsin, which is now in operation on the Yangtze River between the port of Shanghai and ports in Szechwan.[65]

503 River-dredging in Szechwan Province progressed rapidly during the three-year period prior to 1955, and a great many rocks and sand bars have been removed, enabling large

63. Economic Weekly, Shanghai, Jan. 1950, pp. 7-8.
64. Wen-hui Daily, Hong Kong, Oct. 12, 1955.
65. Ibid.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF16 SW China AF16
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503 junks and steamers to reach many places formerly inacessible.[66] As of September 1955, there were approximately 100,000 kilometers of navigable waterways in Southwest China.[67]

502 The use of river lights along the upper Yangtze between I-chang and Chungking facilitated night sailing and reduced the running time by as much as six days.[68]

505 The former Min-sheng Industrial Corporation, the largest privately owned shipping company in China, was founded in Szechwan. It was reorganized as a joint public-private firm in 1952, and its name was changed to the Min-sheng Shipping Corporation by the Communist regime.[69] The Ch'uan-chiang Steamship Company, a merger of three steamship companies -- the Ch'iang-hua, the Hsieh-hsiang, and the Hua-chung -- was recently converted into a joint public-private corporation.[70] Other, smaller shipping firms in Southwest China were reorganized as well.[71]

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66. New China News Agency, Chungking, Oct. 12, 1955.
67. Wen-hui Daily, Hong Kong, Oct. 12, 1955.
68. Navigation in the Communist Area, Taipei, 1953, p. 16.
69. The Economic Yearbook, Hong Kong, 1954, p. 52.
70. Wen-hui Daily, Hong Kong, Sept. 6, 1955.
71. Ibid.